



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Navy Finds No Significant Impacts in Littoral Combat Ship East Coast Homeporting Environmental Assessment

The Navy has released a Final Environmental Assessment (EA) and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) after evaluating the potential environmental effects that could result from homeporting up to 14 Littoral Combat Ships (LCS) at Naval Station Mayport, Fla., by 2020. The Navy evaluated the potential environmental effects of homeporting up to 14 LCSs at Naval Station Mayport, Fla., or Naval Station Norfolk, Va. Although no final decision has yet been made, the Navy's preferred alternative is to homeport the initial East Coast Littoral Combat Ships at Naval Station Mayport. Because implementing the proposed action would not result in significant impacts the Navy has determined that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

The Navy released the Draft EA on February 28, 2013, and received public comments on the document until March 29, 2013.

The EA, including the FONSI, can be viewed and downloaded at:

https://portal.navfac.navy.mil/portal/page/portal/navfac/navfac_ww_pp/navfac_navfacmidlant_pp/midlant_ps/environmental_norfolk/tab3987837. Paper copies of the Final EA and FONSI are available for review at the following libraries:

- Beaches Branch Library, 600 3rd St., Neptune Beach, Fla.
- Jacksonville Main Library, 303 N Laura St. Jacksonville, Fla.
- St. Marys Public Library, 100 Herb Bauer Drive, St. Marys, Ga.
- Havelock-Craven County Public Library, 301 Cunningham Blvd., Havelock, N.C.
- Mary D. Pretlow Anchor Library, 111 W. Ocean View Ave., Norfolk, Va.
- Meyera Oberndorf Central Library, 4100 Virginia Beach Blvd., Virginia Beach, Va.

The EA includes an evaluation of the environmental effects of construction of support facilities and accommodating the required crews and unmanned aerial systems for the LCS. For example, MQ-8B Fire Scouts are proposed to be stored and flight tested at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C.

The Navy examined stationing up to 21 crews (up to 1,050 ship's company crew personnel and up to about 400 mission package crew personnel) and about 240 LCS support personnel at either Naval

installation. This would result in about 1,700 personnel, as well as about 1,900 family members, being added to the local community. There would be up to 21 crews available for the 14 LCSs; however, six ships would be deployed at any given time, leaving eight LCSs and 15 crews in port at any one time.

The LCS has a modular, mission-focused design that provides the Navy with war fighting capabilities and operational flexibility to ensure continued maritime dominance and access. A relatively small surface combatant, the LCS is designed to operate independently, as part of a Carrier Strike Group or as part of a smaller Surface Action Group. The LCS is designed to operate in shallow coastal waters, and is capable of operating in depths of less than 20 feet. The vessel has two variants, one built by Lockheed Martin and one built by Austal.

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